

**OFFICIAL**  
Expedited Examining Procedure  
Group 1762

PATENT  
Docket No. 54407US002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Scott J. TUMAN et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1762  
Serial No.: 09/822,651 ) Examiner: Elena Tsoy  
Confirmation No.: 9447 )  
Filed: 30 March 2001 )  
For: WEB HAVING DISCRETE STEM REGIONS )

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SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Attn: BOX RCE  
Washington D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Applicants have received the Advisory Action dated 9 August 2002 and are submitting herewith a Request for Continued Examination to provide the Examiner with an opportunity to fully consider the amendments and remarks submitted on 24 July 2002.

With respect to the comments regarding the teachings of Reich et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,465,660), Applicants thank the Examiner for clarifying that inherency is relied on as support for the assertion that Reich et al. teach "polymeric regions."

Applicants do, however, traverse the assertion that "hook fasteners 32, 36 are conventional fasteners of Velcro type." Nowhere does Reich et al. explicitly teach "Velcro type" fasteners. Rather, the teachings are limited to "hook and loop fasteners." As a result, Applicants respectfully traverse the assertion that Reich et al. inherently teaches "polymeric regions."

**Supplemental Response Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 - Expedited Examining Procedure** Page 2 of 2

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It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims 21-55 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives, at the below-listed telephone number, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted for  
Scott J. TUMAN et al.

By  
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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

20 AUGUST 2002

Date

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**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8:**

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile in accordance with 37 CFR §1.6(d) to the Patent and Trademark Office, addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Attn: Box RCE, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2002, at 2:30 p.m. (Central Time).

By: Name: Rachel Gaudin - Graham